Instructions for Threat Table Ranking

The Threat Analysis Table lists the threats to the queen conch as discussed in the status report. Each threat is associated with an ESA factor as listed in section 4(a)(1): A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; C) disease or predation; D) inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and E) other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence. In describing the threats facing the species, each member will qualitatively rank the severity of the identified threats to the species range-wide. Keep in mind that, while a threat may not necessarily affect the species to the same degree throughout its range, you still need to assess how significant the threat is at a range-wide scale (i.e., even if a threat only acts on a portion of a species' range, how does it affect the species' extinction risk throughout its entire range?).

To evaluate the potential impact of each threat, each member is allotted five likelihood points to allocate across the rank scale listed below. These five likelihood points account for uncertainty in the ranking. All five of the likelihood points MUST be allocated for each threat. For example, one might consider predation to be a threat in one specific geographic area but not others and indicate that by using 2 point for "low risk" and 3 points under "moderate risk." Or data may be contradicting on the effect of ecotoxicology and therefore the points may be allocated between "very low risk" and "low risk." All five of the points must be distributed for each threat (they must sum to 5) and only whole numbers are permitted. Insufficient data to score the threat severity is indicated under "0" for Unknown. If a member chooses 0 (Unknown) for a threat, all 5 points must be assigned to that category only. Each member is to individually distribute the 5 points per threat on a scale of one to five according to the following risk description:

- 0 - Unknown
- 1 Very Low Risk - Unlikely that this threat affects species' overall status.
- 2 Low Risk - This threat may affect species' status, but only to a degree that it is unlikely that this threat significantly elevates risk of extinction.
- 3 Moderate Risk - This threat contributes significantly to long term risk of extinction, but does not constitute a danger of extinction in the near future.
- 4 Increasing Risk - Present risk is low or moderate, but is likely to increase to high risk in the foreseeable future if present conditions continue.
- 5 High Risk - This threat indicates danger of extinction in the near future.

When ranking each threat, members should consider the potential for interaction between threats. The impact of threats can be interconnected and the impact of one threat may increase or decrease the ranking of another threat. Members should consider these connections and rank each threat accordingly.

The threats assessment results:

Threats	Unknown risk (0)	Very low risk (1)	Low risk (2)	Moderate risk (3)	Increasing risk (4)	High risk (5)
Commercial Harvest	0%	0%	2%	25%	42%	31%
Law Enforcement	9%	0%	2%	13%	44%	33%
Allee Effect	0%	0%	4%	20%	58%	18%
Foreign Countries Regulations	0%	0%	7%	27%	33%	33%
Life History Traits	0%	2%	13%	22%	53%	11%
International Trade Regulations	0%	13%	16%	15%	29%	27%
Habitat Alteration	0%	4%	20%	36%	38%	2%
Population Connectivity	0%	2%	25%	29%	29%	15%
Artificial Selection (the selected removal of larger animals)	0%	15%	18%	29%	33%	5%
Climate Change	9%	15%	13%	31%	27%	5%
Historic Harvest	0%	5%	13%	55%	11%	16%
Ecotoxicology (water pollution)	9%	13%	35%	33%	11%	0%
State of Florida and U.S. Territories (USVI and PR) Regulations	0%	29%	31%	25%	15%	0%
Parasites	0%	27%	42%	24%	7%	0%
U.S. Federal (St. Croix) Regulations	0%	22%	42%	22%	5%	9%
Predation	0%	20%	65%	15%	0%	0%